



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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CHIEF DEPUTY

June 20, 2007

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – ASHE
INCORPORATED, AIMING HIGH TREATMENT CENTERS - SUTTER
AND YUCAIPA GROUP HOMES**

We have completed a review of Aiming High Treatment Centers, Sutter and Yucaipa Group Homes (Group Home or Agency) operated by Ashe, Incorporated. Each Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Sutter and Yucaipa Group Homes are each six-bed facilities, which provide care for boys ages 12-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Sutter Group Home was providing services for two Probation children, three Riverside County children, and one Alameda County child. Yucaipa Group Home was not providing services for any Los Angeles County children.

Sutter and Yucaipa Group Homes are located in San Bernardino County.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the Sutter Group Home review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues and includes an evaluation of the

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Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Additionally, since Yucaipa Group Home was not providing services for any Los Angeles County children at the time of our review, the monitoring review covers basic child safety and licensing issues and includes only a facility inspection.

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. The Agency needs to address several deficient areas.

Both Group Homes need to provide appropriate dining chairs for the children's use.

Sutter Group Home needs to replace the worn dressers in all the bedrooms and clean the wall in bedroom three. The Group Home also needs to include input from the treatment team and the child in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans and develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that include short and long term goals. Additionally, the Group Home needs to provide all children with the required minimum weekly allowance and allow children to spend their allowances as they choose.

Yucaipa Group Home needs to clean or re-finish the kitchen cabinets. The Group Home also needs to repair or replace the broken dresser drawers and broken desk drawers in bedroom one and provide sufficient lighting and patch the holes in the walls in bedroom two.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:ec

Attachments

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Claudius Wright, Executive Director, Aiming High Treatment Centers Group Home
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Ashe, Inc., Aiming High Treatment Centers
Sutter Group Home
715 South Sutter Avenue
San Bernardino, California 92410
Phone: 909-889-1877
License Number: 366403887
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Sutter Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

Generally, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, the Group Home uses folding aluminum chairs for dining chairs that do not have adequate cushions or padding.

Overall, the Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. However, the dressers in all the bedrooms are worn and damaged and there are burn marks on a wall in bedroom three. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

1. Ashe management:

- a. Provide appropriate dining chairs for the children's use.**
- b. Repair or replace the dressers in all bedrooms.**
- c. Re-paint the wall in bedroom three.**

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II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current. However, input from the treatment team and the child are not included in the development or implementation of the NSPs. The NSPs are not comprehensive and do not include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendations

2. Ashe management:

- a. Include input from the treatment team and the child in the development and implementation of the NSPs.**
- b. Maintain comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that are measurable, attainable and include short and long term goals.**

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities. Children also participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

According to the Agency's management, there are currently no children taking psychotropic medications. This information is appropriately documented.

Children are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Interviews with children

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home does not provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance and children are not permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items. Children are also encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendations

3. Ashe management:

- a. Provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.**
- b. Allow children to spend their allowances as they choose.**

**Ashe, Inc., Aiming High Treatment Centers
Yucaipa Group Home
34201 5th Place
Yucaipa, California 92399
Phone: 909-446-8719
License Number: 366402773
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Yucaipa Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

Generally, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, the Group Home uses folding aluminum chairs for dining chairs that do not have adequate cushions or padding and the kitchen cabinets are dirty and worn.

Overall, children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture and storage space. However, the dresser drawers and desk drawers are broken in bedroom one. In bedroom two, there is insufficient lighting and there are holes in the walls. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

1. Ashe management:

- a. Provide appropriate dining chairs for the children's use.**
- b. Clean or re-finish the cabinets in the kitchen.**

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- c. Repair or replace the dresser and desk drawers in bedroom one.
- d. Provide sufficient lighting and repair the holes in the walls in bedroom two.

June 21, 2006

**Aiming High Treatment Centers
Plan of Correction
Lic#366402773**

1. Recommendation A: Replace dining chairs with appropriate cushion and padding.

Correction: Six new dining room chairs have been replaced with appropriate cushion. Facility manager will monitor on a daily basis the area the clients reside in. Also the quality assurance component has been implemented and will be administered on a weekly basis. Administrator will verify reports and will monitor on a weekly basis as well.

Recommendation B: Clean or re-glaze the cabinets in the kitchen.

Correction: Kitchen cabinets have been deep cleaned. Facility manager will monitor on a weekly basis the kitchen cabinets. If deep cleaning needs to be more specific facility maintenance will be notified which comes on a weekly basis.

Recommendation C: Replace or repair the dresser & desk drawers in bedroom one.

Correction: Two new dressers have been purchased for bedroom one. Also desk drawers have been repaired. Facility manager will monitor on a daily basis the conditions of client's desk and dressers.

Recommendation D: Provide sufficient lighting and repair the holes in the walls in bedroom two.

Correction: Lamps were purchased for bedroom two and holes were patched and wall was re-painted.

The facility environment corrections were implemented by executive director. The facility manager and quality assurance will ensure and maintain as implemented

Respectfully Submitted;

*Claudius Wright
Administrator*

II Program Services

Recommendation: Include treatment team in the development and implementation of Needs & Services Plan. Maintain Comprehensive Needs & Service plan.

Correction: Plan of Correction has been implemented treatment team will be included in client's progress according to NSP and will meet monthly at staff meeting. All information pertaining to the child will be included but not limited to educational notes presented by school officials if unable to be present. To discuss clients progress towards short and long term goals. The objectives will be measurable and attainable and will include short and long term goals. Administrator will meet with client & therapist to go over initial Needs & Service Plan.

The facility environment corrections were implemented by executive director. The facility manager and quality assurance will ensure and maintain as implemented

VII Clothing & Allowance

Recommendations:

- a. Provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.
- b. Allow children to spend their allowance as they choose

Correction: All LA county clients will receive the minimum allowance of seven dollars weekly. This will be monitored by facility manager who issues the allowance. Allowance logs will be monitored on a weekly basis by quality assurance on a weekly basis administrator will also verify allowance procedures on a weekly basis. Also clients will be able to spend their allowance on things that are deemed appropriate or approved by probation officer. Administrator will monitor weekly to make sure LA county clients residents are spending allowance appropriately.

The facility environment corrections were implemented by executive director. The facility manager and quality assurance will ensure and maintain as implemented

Respectfully Submitted;

Claudius Wright
Administrator

June 21, 2006

**Aiming High Treatment Centers
Plan of Correction
Lic#366403887**

I. Recommendation A: Replace dining chairs with appropriate cushion and padding.

Correction: Dining room chairs have been replaced with appropriate cushion. Facility manager will monitor on a daily basis the area the clients reside in. Also the quality assurance component has been implemented and will be administered on a weekly basis. Administrator will verify reports and will monitor on a weekly basis as well.

Recommendation B: Replace dressers in all bedrooms.

Correction: All dressers have been replaced with new ones. Facility manager will monitor dressers on a weekly basis in client's rooms to see if replacement is needed. Quality Assurance will monitor on a weekly basis as well. Administrator will monitor reports as well on a weekly basis and replace as needed.

Recommendation C: Repaint the wall in bedroom three.

Correction: The wall in bedroom three has been repainted. Administrator will ensure that walls and house painted every two years. Quality assurance will monitor weekly as well. Administrator will monitor client's room on a weekly basis.

The Facility environment corrections were implemented by executive director. The facility manager and quality assurance will ensure and maintain as implemented.